



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: June 4, 2024

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California,
Honoring And Congratulating Sergeant Travis Menke As
2023 Exchange Club Sonoma County Peace Officer Of The Year**

Whereas, Sergeant Travis Menke has been selected as the outstanding recipient of the Exchange Clubs' 2023 Sonoma County Peace Officer of the Year recognizing his exceptional contributions to the safety of our community; and

Whereas, in 2006 Sergeant Menke joined the Santa Rosa Police Department, where he was assigned to traffic enforcement and in 2011 became Gangs Crime Team Detective, he also holds titles of FBI Task Force Officer and Sergeant of Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT); and

Whereas, in August 2014, the Sergeant at Arms for the Sonoma County Chapter of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club was reported missing. While officers discovered his burned-out truck in the Central Valley, a body was not recovered. This is where Detective Menke embarked on a career-case spanning over eight years and would accomplish what no other officer, detective, or federal agent could; and

Whereas, through an exhaustive and complex federal investigation, Detective Menke learned the missing Hells Angels Motorcycle Club member had been shot and killed by the Hells Angels West Coast Sergeant at Arms and Fresno Chapter President. Also involved in the murder were the Hells Angels Sonoma Chapter President, another Sonoma County Hells Angels member, and the Hells Angels Salem (Massachusetts) President; and

Whereas, During the lengthy investigation, eight others were arrested and convicted for various other crimes from forced tattooing to murder; and

Whereas, the missing person/murder investigation became part of a large Federal Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) indictment targeting the Sonoma County Chapter of Hells Angels and all were convicted federally, with sentences ranging from three years to life in federal prison; and

Whereas, this was the first successful RICO case against the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club, known as the most notorious outlaw motorcycle club in the United States; and

Whereas, as of December 2023, and now a Sergeant, Travis Menke’s work has sparked renewed interest in other missing persons cases and opened other homicide cases in Central Valley counties.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors does hereby honor and commend Sergeant Travis Menke, of the Santa Rosa Police Department, and expresses its deep appreciation for his many contributions to the safety of the people of Santa Rosa and communities across Sonoma County.

Supervisors:

Gorin: Coursey: Gore: Hopkins: Rabbitt:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

So Ordered.